

Low Desert Planting & Harvest Calendar

Brought to you by the Urban Farm, Greg Peterson and Matt Suhr
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Updated October 2020 by Raymond Jess & Greg Peterson to reflect changing climate conditions.

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Crop	Hardiness	JAN 1	JAN 15	FEB 1	FEB 15	MAR 1	MAR 15	APR 1	APR 15	MAY 1	MAY 15	JUN 1	JUN 15	JUL 1	JUL 15	AUG 1	AUG 15	SEP 1	SEP 15	OCT 1	OCT 15	NOV 1	NOV 15	DEC 1	DEC 15	Comments
Artichoke—Globe	20	t	t	t	t	t	t													s/t	s/	t	t	t	t	Light frost helps first year harvest.
--Jerusalem	<0	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b															Comes back every year. Plant from bulb/rhizome
Asparagus	<0			b	b	b	b	b													b	b	b	b		Don't harvest until 3rd year.
Bean—Blackeye	32																									Performs well in full summer heat.
--Fava	20																				s	s	s	s		Dislikes heat.
--Garbanzo	25	s	s	s	s																s	s	s	s	s	Stays low to ground.
--Green snap	32																									Seed will rot if planted in cold soil.
--Lentil	25	s	s	s	s																s	s	s	s	s	Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.
--Lima	32																									Does best with trellis.
--Pinto	32																									Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.
--Soy	32																									Use special varieties for edamame.
--Yardlong	32																									Black-seeded types do best.
Beet	25																				s	s	s	s		Be sure to thin if you want big beets.
Bok Choy	22	t	t																		s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	Bolts quickly in Spring.
Broccoli—head	25	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Light frost improves flavor.
--Raab	25	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Pick frequently to maintain production.
--Romanesco	27	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Allow 15" spacing between plants.
Brussels Sprout	22																				s	s	s	t	t	Only early hybrids do well. "Oliver" is best.
Cabbage—Chinese	24	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Heads form quickly. Be sure to thin.
--standard	26	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Red varieties take a little longer to head.
Carrot	23																				s	s	s	s		Slow to sprout--mix in a few radish seeds.
Cauliflower	27	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Fold leaves over exposed heads.
Celery	28																				s	s	s	s/t	s/t	Often stringy and bitter in desert conditions.
Collards	25	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Light frost improves flavor.
Corn—flour	32																									Allow to totally dry on stalk.
--ornamental	32																									Plant in blocks for good pollination.
--popcorn	32																									Harder kernels than flour corn.
--sweet	32																									Supersweet var. need very warm soil to sprout.
Cucumber—Armenian	32																									Withstands heat better than standard types.
--standard	32																									Harvest frequently for best quality.
Eggplant	32																									Best production in Fall.
Endive	25	s	s																		s	s	s	s	s	Pull leaves over center to blanch.
Garlic	10																				b	b	b			Harvest when tops die back.
Jicama	32																									Does well with trellis.
Kale	22	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Pick outer leaves for continual harvest.
Leek	15	b	b																		s/bs	b/bs	b/bs			Pile dirt over stalks to blanch.
Lettuce—head	28	t	t																							Allow 8-12" per plant for big heads.
--leaf	28	t	t																		s	s	s	t	t	Won't sprout in hot soil.
Melons	32																									Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.
Mizuna	25	t	t																		s	s	s	s/t	t	Good as baby greens or full-size.

Crop

Comments

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Mustard Greens	27	t	t																	s	s	s	s/t	t	t	Light frost improves flavor.
Okra	32																			s/b	b/b	b	b	b	b	Pick frequently to maintain production.
Onion--bulb	15	b	b	b													b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	Harvest when tops die back. Use short-day type.
--multiplier	15	b	b	b													b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	Don't produce seed. Divide to propagate. Eat tops & Use long-day type.
--scallion	15	b	b	b													b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	Use long-day type.
Parsnip	25																			s	s	s	s	s	s	Dig root before flower stalks form.
Peas	26																			s	s	s	s	s	s	Does best with trellis. Blooms are frost-tender.
Pepper	32			s	s	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	t								s/t	s/t						Start indoors in winter. Best harvest in fall from plants planted in spring.
Potato	32		b	b	b	b																				Harvest when in full bloom. Red potatoes do best.
Pumpkin	32																									Plant June 15 for Halloween.
Radish	25	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s												s	s	s	s	s	Do best when day-length is short.
Rutabaga	26																			s	s	s	s	s	s	Harvest before flower stalks form.
Spinach	22	s	s	s	s	s	s														s	s	s	s	s	Bolts quickly in Spring.
Squash--summer	32																									Pick frequently to maintain production.
--winter	32																									The longer they are left on the vine, the sweeter.
Sunflower	32																									Quite drought-tolerant
Sweet Potato	32																									Cure tubers in warm place before storage.
Swiss chard	26	s	s																		s	s	s	s	s	Pick outer leaves for continual harvest.
Tomatillo	32	s	s	s	t	t	t	t	t																	Easy. Start seeds indoors for planting after last frost.
Tomato	32	s	s	s	t	t	t	t	t																	Do best w/ shade cloth. Start seeds indoors for planting after last frost.
Turnip	25	s	s	s	s	s											s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Best flavor in cool weather.
Watermelon	32																									Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.
Herbs																										
Arugula-Annual	15	s	s	s	s																s	s	s	s	s	May be planted thickly.
Basil-Annual/Perennial	32	s	s	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t							Plants don't like cold & will slow down in winter. Frost Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Cilantro-Annual	28	s/t	s/t																		s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Dill-Annual	27	s/t	s/t																		s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	Very easy from seed. Does not transplant well.
Fennel--bulb variety	27	s	s	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	Leave some bulbs in the ground for perennial harvest.
--herb/leaves	25	s	s	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Lavender-Annual	0																				s	s	s	s	s	Needs sandy soil.
Mint-Perennial	<0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t												t	t	t	t	t	Can be invasive. Doesn't come true from seed.
Oregano-Perennial	<0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t										t	t	t	t	t	Keep flowers trimmed for best leaf production.
Parsley-Annual	20	s	s	s																	s	s	s	s	s	Very slow to germinate. Otherwise easy. Self seeds annually
Rosemary-Perennial		t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t										t	t	t	t	t	Harvest year around.
Sage-Perennial	<0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t										t	t	t	t	t	Many varieties with different requirements.
Thyme-Perennial	<0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t											t	t	t	t	Prefers sandy soil.

Hardiness Note Hardiness temp, is the point at which damage occurs in exposed plants. Extent of damage depends on length of exposure, as well as micro-environmental factors.

Covering plants with frost cloth can give anywhere from 2 to 10 degrees of extra protection. Coverings are most effective when suspended close to, but not in contact with, the plant.

Microclimates The exact season of growing depends greatly on your particular microclimate. A microclimate is any area of your yard that is warmer or cooler than the rest of the yard:

such as planting next to a block wall that retains heat into the night. Many frost sensitive plants can be grown through the winter in milder low desert locations, though with slower growth rates.

Likewise, with appropriate shading many heat-sensitive crops can be grown into the summer months in outlying areas with cooler nights, though quality and vigor can be reduced.

Maricopa County Garden Planting Calendar for Annual Fruits and Vegetables
The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Fruit • Vegetable	Time to Harvest	Jan.		Feb.		March		April		May		June		July		August		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Artichokes, Globe	4-6 months		T		T		T																		
Artichokes, Jerusalem	6-8 months		T		T		T		T		T											S	S		S
Asparagus	2-3 years	T	T																						
Basil	T = 30 S = 60-75 days				S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS											T	T	T	T
Beans, Lima	60-100 days						S																		
Beans, Pinto	60-90 days																								
Beans, Snap	60-90 days						S	S	S					S	S	S	S								
Beans, Yardlong	60-90 days						S	S	S	S	S	S	S												
Beets	60-80 days	S	S	S	S		S											S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Blackeyed Peas	90-120 days							S	S	S	S	S	S												
Bok Choy	45 days	S	S	S	S													S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Broccoli	T=90-100 S=120-130 days	TS	T															S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Brussel Sprouts	T=100-120 S=130-150 days																	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Cabbage	T=80-90 S=120-130 days	TS	T															S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Cabbage, Chinese	T=45 S=70-80 days	TS	T															S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Carrots	60-100 days	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Cauliflower	T=90-100 S=120-130 days	TS	T															S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Celery	120-150 days																								
Chard	60-90 days	TS	TS															S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Collard Greens	80 days	S	S	S	S													S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Corn, Sweet	70-90 days				S	S	S											S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Cucumbers	60-90 days				S	S	S	S	S									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Cucumbers, Armenian	55 days				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Eggplant	70-120 days					T	T																		
Endive	80-120 days	S	S															S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

S = Seeds T = Transplants X = Sets or Cloves

Fruit • Vegetable	Time to Harvest	Jan.		Feb.		March		April		May		June		July		August		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Garlic	5-7 months																			X	X				
Kale	60-90 days																	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Kohlrabi	T=45-60 S=50-60 days	T	T	T													S	S	S	S	TS	TS	TS	T	T
Lettuce, Head	50-100 days	TS	TS	T													S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Lettuce, Leaf	30-90 days	TS	TS	TS	T												S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Leek	180-200 days	S	S														S	S	S	S					
Melons, Cantaloupe	80-120 days					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S												
Melons, Watermelon	90-120 days					S	S											S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Mustard	35-45 days	S	S	S	S													S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Okra	70-100 days					S	S	S	S	S	S														
Onions, Bulb	Sets=4-5 months S=7-8 months	X	X	X																S	S	S	S	X	X
Onions, Green	90-100 days	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Onions, Shallots	80 - 110 days													X	X			S	S						
Parsnips	100-120 days																		S	S	S	S	S		
Peanuts	5 months					S	S	S	S																
Peas	Sept.=60-120 Nov.=120-150 days	S	S	S	S														S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Peppers	90-120 days				T	T	T							T	T										
Potatoes	90-120 days	S	S	S	S	S	S																		
Potatoes, Sweet	120-160 days					T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T												
Pumpkin	90-120 days					S	S							S	S	S									
Radishes	30-60 days	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Rutabagas	100-120 days	S	S															S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Spinach	30-90 days	S	S	S	S												S								
Squash, Summer	60-90 days				S	S	S	S	S																
Squash, Winter	90-120 days					S	S							S	S	S									
Sunflower	90-110 days			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S												
Tomatoes	50-120 days				T	T	T									T									
Turnips	75-120 days	S	S	S	S												S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

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Maricopa County - Master Gardeners